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Afghan child soldier, 10, shot, killed by the Taliban
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INTERVIEW
Yann Martel's new novel explores life after loss
metroLIFE

KEN MCMILLAN CREATIVE COMMONS FLICKR/KAMCMILLAN

UBC decision 'frustrating'

FINANCE

University says no to selling off fossil fuel holdings

UBC's finance committee has voted against selling off the school's fossil-fuel holdings, saying it would go against their fiduciary duty.

The finance committee, part of the school's Board of Governors, made the recommendation Wednesday to keep fossil-fuel stocks as part of the university's $1.4-billion endowment, while also creating a $10-million sustainability fund to promote environmental goals.

George Hoberg, a forestry professor and faculty co-ordinator for the school's divestment campaign, said he was disappointed by the decision and the reasons given for making it.

"As a member of the UBC faculty for 27 years, I'm deeply disappointed that the decision departs so far from the university's stated aspirations to be a leader in sustainability," said Hoberg.

Last January, faculty members at UBC voted 62 per cent in favour of selling off the university's fossil-fuel investments within the next five years. A year earlier, students had voted 77 per cent in favour of divesting from fossil-fuel holdings.

Alex Hemingway, head of the student divestment campaign, said he was disappointed those votes were ignored and that there had not been more consultations.

"It's very frustrating that UBC has chosen to ignore the decisive referendum votes of both the students and faculty here," he said.

Hemingway said the UBC divestment campaign will hold a teach-in about divestment on Feb. 9 and plans to continue to put pressure on the Board of Governors on divestment ahead of the Feb. 15 meeting where a final decision will be made.

The board will also vote at the meeting on whether to approve the proposed sustainability fund, which would hold low-carbon investments that meet best practices for environmental, social and governance factors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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B.C.'s cancer breakthrough

HEALTH

Scientists' findings should help women get right treatment

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

B.C. scientists have made a breakthrough in understanding the origins of cancer that occurs simultaneously in the uterus and ovary.

It's a finding, they say, that reaffirms doctors in this province are taking the right approach in treating the disease.

Dr. David Huntsman, principal investigator for the study and a distinguished scientist at the BC Cancer Agency, said the findings have important implications for ensuring women diagnosed with this type of cancer are given the appropriate treatment.

"We hope our findings will change the way these cancers are staged or how the degree of spread is scored clinically to prevent patients being treated over aggressively," he told Metro.

"Every treatment or operation given, there is a price to pay in terms of cost to the system, but most importantly, side effects to the patient. It's really important that the right treatments are given to the right patients."

BC Cancer Agency research associate Michael Anglesio, right, with scientist Dr. David Huntsman. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Synchronous endometrial and ovarian, or SEO, cancer, occurs when tumours appear on the ovary and on the endometrial lining of the uterus at the same time.

While the spread of a tumour from one organ to another, known as metastasis, is often an indication of advanced stage cancer that requires aggressive chemotherapy and radiation treatment, SEO cancer has puzzled scientists because they often respond well to surgery alone.

> **We hope our findings will change the way these cancers are staged or how the degree of spread is scored clinically.**
> Principal investigator Dr. David Huntsman

After sequencing frequently mutated cancer genes in 18 pairs of SEO tumours, the researchers discovered that each pair of tumours had identical features, confirming that the cancer does spread from one organ to another, but through a novel process they call "pseudo-metastasis."

Metastasis usually involves cancer spreading through the bloodstream and changing along the way, allowing it to survive in a new environment, Huntsman said.

SEO tumours, however, appear to spread through the fallopian tubes from the uterus to the ovary, and vice versa, without undergoing any changes.

"It's a bit like going from one place you're familiar with to another, like your house to your cabin, as opposed to going to a totally foreign place," he said.

"What it shows is that some metastasis may be curable by surgery because the tumours haven't had to change in ways that would allow it to grow in other parts of the body."

Michael Anglesio, lead author and research associate in the department of molecular biology at the BC Cancer Agency, said the findings open the door to future research on pseudo-metastasis.

"It really does come down to the biology of how something can metastasize and then still remain restricted," he said.

"There's going to be a lot of future work on trying to figure out what the feedback is between the normal cells that surround and the cancer itself."

The study was published Wednesday in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

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B.C. looking into building highway to Sunshine Coast

INFRASTRUCTURE

Province hires engineering firm to assess link options

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The provincial government has hired an engineering firm to assess the feasibility of a potential highway link between the Lower Mainland and the Sunshine Coast.

Transportation Minister Todd Stone announced Wednesday that R.F. Binnie & Associates has been awarded a $250,000 contract to explore a number of options, including a highway link around Jervis Inlet and direct bridge connections along the coast.

The most direct route currently between the Lower Mainland to communities like Gibsons and Sechelt is a 40-minute ferry trip through Howe Sound from West Vancouver or a pricey flight via seaplane.

The beach at Sechelt, B.C. Transportation Minister Todd Stone announced a firm has been awarded a $250,000 contract to explore a number of transportation options. KEN MCMILLAN/FLICKR

The Sunshine Coast's reliance on ferry service (locals refer to themselves as "ferry hostages") despite its close proximity to the Lower Mainland has made transportation issues a "hot topic" for years, according to West Vancouver-Sea to Sky MLA Jordan Sturdy in the government's press release.

So hot that the government has gone ahead with a feasibility study. But it's also an issue that has split opinion among Sunshine Coast residents, according to Sechelt Downtown Business Association board member Alton Toth.

While a direct link would boost tourism, many fear their scenic, tight-knit communities "will just turn into a major suburb" of Vancouver.

"It's a real divider," said Toth, who personally feels a tolled highway from Squamish would increase accessibility but keep the two regions distinct. "People don't want to lose that small town feel. But (for Sunshine Coast residents) it would be nice to visit family or go to a game and be able to get back home that night."

$250,000

The amount offered in a contract to an engineering firm to investigate options to connect the Sunshine Coast to the mainland

Despite the government's announcement, Toth is suspicious anything will come out of the feasibility study and feels most options will be ruled out for being too expensive.

The Ministry of Transportation conducted a similar study last year for a possible bridge link between Gabriola and Vancouver islands after a successful petition.

Ultimately, the report found a bridge would cost too much (between $258 million and $520 million) and the government decided to stick with existing ferry service to and from Gabriola Island. R.F Binnie's final report on possible Sunshine Coast links is expected in late fall.

BYELECTION

NDP wins two ridings

Two newly elected New Democrats say they'll advocate for children, education and affordable housing when they take their seats in British Columbia's legislature.

Electors in Vancouver-Mount Pleasant and Coquitlam-Burke Mountain voted on Tuesday to send New Democrats Melanie Mark and Jodie Wickens to Victoria.

Mark won easily in her Vancouver riding, securing almost 61 per cent of the vote and beating second-place candidate Pete Fry of the B.C. Green Party by more than 3,000 votes.

B.C. Liberal Gavin Dew placed a distant third, earning just 994 votes.

In Coquitlam-Burke Mountain, Wickens earned more than 46 per cent of the vote, pulling ahead of Liberal Joan Isaacs by 626 votes by the end of the night.

Joe Keithley of the B.C. Green Party finished a distant third, collecting 1,061 votes.

Mark said she dug deep and reflected on her days as a rugby player to come up with the win.

"I've said time and time again I've never taken anything for granted in my life, including my own life, and so you know we worked hard every single day," she said.

"You know, we just pushed through. I used to play rugby, right. You just got to dig deep and drive, drive, drive to the finish line, and we didn't stop."

Mark said she plans to advocate for affordable housing, children's education, health and welfare. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Animal advocates credit spike in complaints to public

British Columbia's Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals credits a more proactive public, not declining attitudes toward animal welfare, for a dramatic spike in complaints in 2015.

The BC SPCA's Marcie Moriarty says investigators responded to 10,205 complaints in 2015, up drastically from 8,850 the year earlier. Moriarty says the numbers likely don't mean animal cruelty is more common in the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Paramedics and firefighters respond after a family of four was hit by a vehicle on Tuesday evening. SHANE MACKICHAN/FOR METRO

Mom, kids injured in collision

SURREY

Police warning public to be extra vigilant

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Two young children are still in hospital with serious injuries after their family was struck by a car near their home in Surrey on Tuesday.

Cpl. Scotty Schumann of Surrey RCMP said police are still investigating the crash, which happened shortly before 6 p.m. on 147A Street and 76th Avenue.

"What we know for sure is that the vehicle that struck them was going eastbound on 76th Avenue," he told Metro. "The family was crossing either in or near a crosswalk at that location. They were all struck by the same car."

While the father escaped the crash without injury, the rest of the family was rushed to hospital, said Schumann.

On Wednesday, the mother was still in hospital with minor injuries, he said. The boy, aged six, has serious but non-life-threatening injuries, while his four-year-old sister was fighting for her life.

"Their youngest child, she received significant injuries," said Schumann. "She's in critical but stable condition."

He said the driver, a 65-year-old Surrey man, remained at the scene of the crash and is co-operating with investigators. He was driving a 2006 Acura TL.

Police have ruled out speed and alcohol as factors in the crash.

Meanwhile, Surrey RCMP stepped up its traffic enforcement this month in an effort to improve pedestrian safety and reduce crashes, a week after a woman was killed in the city's first fatal pedestrian collision this year. Schumann said the number of pedestrian collisions spike from November to January when it's dark and weather is poor.

FIRST NATIONS

Families speak out about missing loved ones

B.C.'s minister of aboriginal relations says a three-day gathering with family members of murdered and missing women was historic, powerful and moving.

John Rustad says the event in Prince George gave relatives a chance to recount their experiences about the loss of their loved ones.

About 350 family members attended the gathering hosted by the province and several indigenous organizations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WILDLIFE

Drones and DNA versus invasive species

Field technicians on the hunt for invasive species used to go on foot, by canoe or relied on satellite photographs taken from outer space.

But an ecologist who dispatched a drone to detect invaders in a B.C. wildlife area is now recommending more remote-controlled robots do the difficult work.

"With a drone we're looking at pixel sizes that are teeny tiny. The resolution is amazing. You can literally zoom in and see all the petals on that flower," said Catherine Tarasoff, an adjunct professor at Thompson Rivers University. "I've gotten past the steep learning curve and see the unlimited possibilities."

Tarasoff trialled the unmanned aerial technology last June at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, an internationally protected wetland.

The successful experiment was one of several cutting-edge advancements showcased in Richmond on Tuesday in the ongoing battle against invasive species. More than 150 specialists from across the province are gathering for three days to discuss emerging issues and learn about the latest techniques to apply in their own regions.

"There's way more technology involved than there used to be," said Gail Wallin, executive director of the Invasive Species Council of B.C., which is hosting the forum. "We're in a whole new world now."

The federal fisheries department is also getting on board with more sophisticated detection methods, said Davon Callander with the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo. She said invasive species can now be detected in environmental DNA, which is found in any ecosystem.

"It really is as easy as going out and getting a litre of water," she said, explaining how the samples are filtered for the "eDNA," which is then amplified, sequenced and matched to species' barcodes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

INFORMATION LAWS

‘Cultural change’ could open government

The Liberals’ promise to pry open government requires nothing less than “cultural change” within the public service, warn documents obtained by Torstar News Service.

Treasury Board President Scott Brison was told in November there are significant hurdles to the Liberals’ campaign pledge to reform access-to-information laws, make government information open by default and more effectively communicate with the public.

Documents prepared for Brison describe a federal culture of “limited disclosure, insular policy making,” which takes into account the “federal view only.”

To implement the Liberals’ ambitious democratic reform agenda, that culture will need to shift to one of “proactive release, engagement and connectivity (and) broad leadership on open government.”

It’s not clear exactly how the government intends to change the culture of some 257,000 employees in the core public service. But Trudeau has already made clear he wants to end the era of the federal government deciding and acting on issues unilaterally, putting an emphasis on meeting with provincial premiers and, on Friday, the mayors of Canada’s largest cities. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **Information is not sufficiently leveraged to fuel the digital economy (or) spur innovation.**
> Statement from obtained documents on the wealth of unclassified information of interest

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WIND

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets refugee families who recently arrived in Canada at an open house of the Masjid Al-Salaam Mosque in Peterborough, Ont., on Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugee needs intensifying

SYRIAN CRISIS

Government-assisted groups will face more issues: Analysis

As the Liberal government’s target date to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees inches ever closer, a government analysis of those who’ve already arrived paints a sobering picture of the resettlement challenge ahead.

Data obtained by The Canadian Press shows that government-assisted refugees have more children, lower language skills and lower education levels compared with those being resettled by private groups.

Here’s a look at what it found, and some of the implications for resettlement providers.

Bigger families
53 per cent of approved cases listed five to eight people on the application, raising concerns for the current housing crunch. It’s harder to find apartments to accommodate that many people within available budgets.

They’re younger
55 per cent of approved applicants were 14 years of age or younger, compared with 27 per cent of privately sponsored ones. Services directly targeted at children will need to be stepped up.

Language barriers
67 per cent of approved applicants reported speaking neither English or French. In some cities, wait lists for language training are over a year long. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SECURITY

U.S. senators probing Canada’s refugee plan
The U.S. Senate committee for homeland security is studying the implications for U.S. security from Canada’s refugee program. The committee is hearing from two Canadians who have criticized the Trudeau government’s refugee plan, including a representative of U.S. border guards who says the border is porous and needs more guards and a trade expert. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Members of Canadian navy charged with drug offences
The Canadian navy says two members of a warship have been charged with drug offences by Japanese police. Police detained two military members and a civilian employee on Monday for the alleged use of a controlled substance. The charges follow a port visit to Tokyo by a Halifax-class frigate with a crew of about 250 personnel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Insurgents kill child soldier

AFGHANISTAN

Boy, 10, had fought against the Taliban with militia

A 10-year-old Afghan boy who was declared a hero after fighting the Taliban has been shot dead by insurgents while on his way to school, officials said Wednesday.

Wasil Ahmad, who had fought the Taliban alongside his uncle on many occasions, was killed Monday near his home in Tirin Kot, the capital of the southern Uruzgan province, said deputy police Chief Rahimullah Khan.

Wasil Ahmad TWITTER

The 10-year-old boy had been a local celebrity of sorts, with widely circulated photographs on social media showing him holding an automatic weapon and wearing a uniform and helmet.

The use of child soldiers is illegal in Afghanistan, but the charity Child Soldiers International said both government forces and insurgents have been recruiting minors for years.

"There is a lack of political will to address this issue, and while it's within the framework of overall human rights violations, there is a specific commitment by the government to clean it up but sufficient measures are not being taken," said Charu Lata Hogg, the organization's policy and advocacy director.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIGRANTS 'THIS, ABOVE ALL, TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE' The words from Shakespeare's Hamlet rang out on the most unlikely stage on Wednesday — a squalid migrant camp in the French port of Calais, known locally as the "jungle." Up to 300 people bundled against the cold to watch the outdoor show on a wooden stage beside the small Good Chance theatre, set up last fall to help fill the void for displaced residents. THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH

Heat helps spread of Zika virus

In its brief lifespan, the mosquito that carries the Zika virus is caught in a race: Will it pass the disease to humans before it dies?

"With higher temperatures you have more mosquitoes feeding more frequently and having a greater chance of acquiring infection," said Bill Reisen of the University of California Davis.

In general, mosquitoes don't live long, maybe 10 to 12 days, said Tom Scott, a University of California Davis professor of both entomology and epidemiology.

He says warm air incubates the virus faster and gives mosquitos more time to spread the disease.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOD DONORS

The agency responsible for most of Canada's blood supply says people who have travelled outside of Canada, the continental United States and Europe will be ineligible to give blood for 21 days after their return. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE POLITICS OF OILSANDS

If Trudeau cannot get along with Rachel Notley, he is unlikely to get along with any Alberta government. But ... the real test of their relationship will be the resolution of the pipeline file.

Kudos to Justin Trudeau and Alberta's Rachel Notley for taking the time to talk face-to-face about the province's economic challenges on Wednesday. The Liberal prime minister has a compelling interest in keeping the channels open with the NDP premier.

If Trudeau can't get along with Notley, he is unlikely to get along with any Alberta government. Her two top advisers — Richard Dicerni on the public-service side and Brian Topp in the more political role of chief-of-staff — know the federal capital inside out and have worked with the federal Liberals in the past.

Dicerni served in a senior role in the unity backrooms of Pierre Trudeau's government at the time of the 1980 Quebec referendum. Topp was Jack Layton's lead negotiator in the talks that led to the 2008 Liberal-NDP coalition accord.

But while the prime minister can offer Notley some financial relief in the upcoming federal budget, the real test of their relationship will be the resolution of the pipeline file and the fate of Alberta's efforts to connect the oilsands to tidewater.

It is by far the most contentious issue on the federal-provincial radar. Yet, this is one national discussion that is unlikely to be resolved between first ministers. To date, the lead players in the debate have mostly been municipal politicians.

This is one national discussion that is unlikely to be resolved by first ministers.

Here are a few of them:

Joanne Monaghan was the mayor of Kitimat, B.C., on whose watch a plebiscite was held on the Northern Gateway pipeline in 2014. As the end point for the pipeline bringing oil from Alberta, Kitimat would be home to a marine terminal where tankers would load up. Almost 60 per cent of her constituents voted no, driving another nail in the coffin of the moribund $6.5-billion Enbridge project.

Derek Corrigan is the mayor of Burnaby, B.C. The Trans Mountain pipeline runs through the city, and its corporate owner, Kinder Morgan, wants to triple its capacity. Corrigan is hardly the only Vancouver-area mayor to oppose the pipeline but he is one of the most vocal. Last May, he told a community meeting he was prepared to be arrested and see his political career come to an end to stop the project. He called last week's federal announcement of an expanded consultation process and an extended approval timeline a disappointment.

Marc Demers is the mayor of Laval, Quebec's third-largest city, and one of 82 Montreal-area municipal leaders who came out against the Energy East pipeline. While most Canadians see Denis Coderre as the face of the region's opposition to TransCanada's current plans, Demers has been campaigning hard against the pipeline since early last fall.

Gilles Lehouillier is the major of Lévis, across from Quebec City. He turned down TransCanada's plan to locate a terminal for the Energy East pipeline in his city and remains ambivalent about the project as whole.

There are mayors in the pro-pipeline camp who are not from Saskatchewan and Alberta — the two provinces whose oil industry needs access to a coast — but their support tends to be more tentative than the opposition of some of their mayoral colleagues.

Quebec City's Régis Labeaume gave his support in principle to the Energy East pipeline last week. In the same breath, though, he said TransCanada had proven inept at addressing the environmental concerns arising from the project.

Mel Norton, the mayor of Saint John, N.B., where some of the oil delivered by the pipeline would be refined, also supports Energy East, but his municipal council wants more definitive answers from TransCanada as to its benefits for the region.

Canada has hit upon defining issues that have pitted region against region in the past. Think of the National Energy Program in the early '80s, the 1988 free-trade agreement with the United States — opposed by Ontario but supported by Quebec and Alberta — and three divisive constitutional rounds. But none of those discussions engaged Canada's municipal politicians in the way that this one does.

No mayor holds a veto over a pipeline, but it will be hard to secure a social licence for any project absent more support from the political leaders who are closest to the day-to-day life of so many voters.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: A whiter shade of male

The artist Andy Warhol once wrote, "When you've got grey hair, every move you make seems 'young' and 'spry.'" Perhaps, then, the pressures of modern life have millennial men feeling their age already, because stars such as former One Direction member Zayn Malik, 23, and vlogger Tyler Oakley, 26, are leading the trend toward pastel-grey locks for younger guys. It's a toned-down version of the frosted-metallic look for women, and a black-and-white reversal of the fad from just a few years ago. Back then, middle-aged men flocked to salons in droves to "reshade" (never "colour," that's for women) their greying tresses in hopes of competing with the young and energetic talent hitting an atrophied job market. SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The media is two-faced when it comes to sexual assault

If you are sexually assaulted, you can have your day in the media, and then have your day in court.

But if you want a conviction, your first call should probably be to a lawyer.

Watching the first two days of Jian Ghomeshi's trial, which resumes today, it seems the press will work against you in the court.

Marie Henein, Ghomeshi's lawyer, made hay from every detail in every statement the first witness made — in four media interviews and to police — that did not line up, just so, with her chief testimony in court on Monday.

It's not clear what the inscrutable Justice William Horkins thought, but to the gallery it appeared as if Henein, while never explicitly challenging that Ghomeshi punched the woman in the head three times, systematically shredded her credibility.

At this point, avoiding the courts, as many of Ghomeshi's accusers have, seems the more judicious move.

Not only have they had their stories heard by the country, they got results. Ghomeshi lost his job. The CBC endured a scathing inquiry into management's culpability in a caustic work environment at Q, Ghomeshi's show. Ontario launched a high-profile, $41-million anti-sexual-assault campaign.

It's a rare reckoning that only happens if you have a Ghomeshi-calibre celebrity as your alleged abuser. And even then — people who sexually assault people should be convicted. Ironically, media interviews can undermine that.

"It's not that you're set up to fail," Jacob Jesin, the witness's lawyer, told me yesterday. "It's that every statement you make, outside of being in your lawyer's offices, is fodder for cross-examinations."

It seems highly likely that anyone telling a story would alter some aspects along the way, but in court, there is little room for memory's foibles or the slow recollection of details, like whether the witness was wearing hair extensions. Pile up enough seemingly small deviations, and the story begins to take on water. In fact, the best way to seem reliable on the witness stand seems to be to actually have a script and, to use Jesin's words, "Stick to it."

Not only have the witness's comments to the media given the defence ample ammunition, but the press — a sympathetic listener when the witness first came forward — will tell your difficult story and also print your bikini shot.

Today is expected to start with a request from members of the media to publish the bikini photo the witness sent Ghomeshi in 2004. Their "public interest" cuts both ways.

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While almost 80 per cent of Canadians drink, many are unaware of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption, says country's chief public health officer Dr. Gregory Taylor.

Martel on faith, love and iPhones

BOOKS

Living with loss in The High Mountains of Portugal

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

When bad things happen in life, how do we react? To whom do we turn for help?

In his new book The High Mountains of Portugal, Yann Martel dissects moments of human suffering post-tragedy — not to explore how his characters overcome, or succumb to, their loss, but to find out how they *live* with it?

"I wanted to start with people who have lost something very, very precious, and where they go from there," Martel says. "When it gets bad — what do you do, what do you reach for?"

First we meet Tomás who, one by one, within the span of a week, loses his son, his lover, his father. His heart unravels. He tries to protect himself from further assault by walking in reverse; facing the elements with the toughness of his back. He then sets off in search of a treasure hidden in a village church, located in Portugal's mountain range, not on foot but driving his rich uncle's car — a new technology in the early 1900s, one that he hates and doesn't really know how to use.

In the book's Part 2, we meet Eusebio Lozora, a pathologist who gets a strange visit from a widow on New Year's 1939. She wants an autopsy, but not to find out how her husband died. "I want to know how he lived," she insists.

More than 40 years later, in the book's Part 3, Canadian senator Peter Tovy is frustrated with his broken family and becomes enamoured with an ape at a chimpanzee sanctuary in Oklahoma. He buys Odo and goes with his new gargantuan pet (nay, friend) to live in the same village in Portugal, Tuizelo, which connects all three stories.

Much like the plucky teenage protagonist in Life of Pi, Martel's Booker Prize-winning bestseller, the grieving characters in High Mountains find solace in what the author describes as a "curious phenomenon called faith."

It's a subject Martel is intrigued by, even though it's become unusual in many social circles to talk about God and religion in any way that's not underlined with cynicism.

"We live in a time that's very inhospitable to other-dimensional talk," he says. "It's against the ethos of our times to believe in airy-fairy things called gods."

It's easier to talk about things that are tangible, that can be explained. Technology, for instance, which the author speaks about favourably though he has his misgivings, perhaps in the same way the villagers in High Mountains are suspicious of Tomás's automobile.

His iPhone, Martel says, allows him to Facetime with his wife and children currently away in England, communicating across the Atlantic, for free. But the device is only useful if you have someone to talk to. In the end, technology is not going to save anyone from the inevitable.

"The person who believes in nothing but a chemical, material reality, confronted with suffering, has very few tools to deal with that," he says.

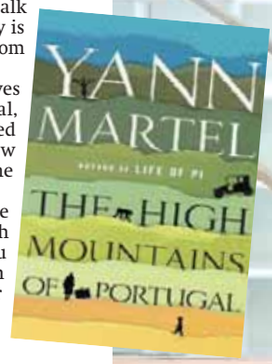
"A lot of stuff we derive through our senses. Faith goes beyond that, you know — why you fall in love with one person or one hockey team... there's no real sense to it. Why I love India and am indifferent to another country; why I like Italian food and less so Chinese food — there's no logic to that. But that's who I am."

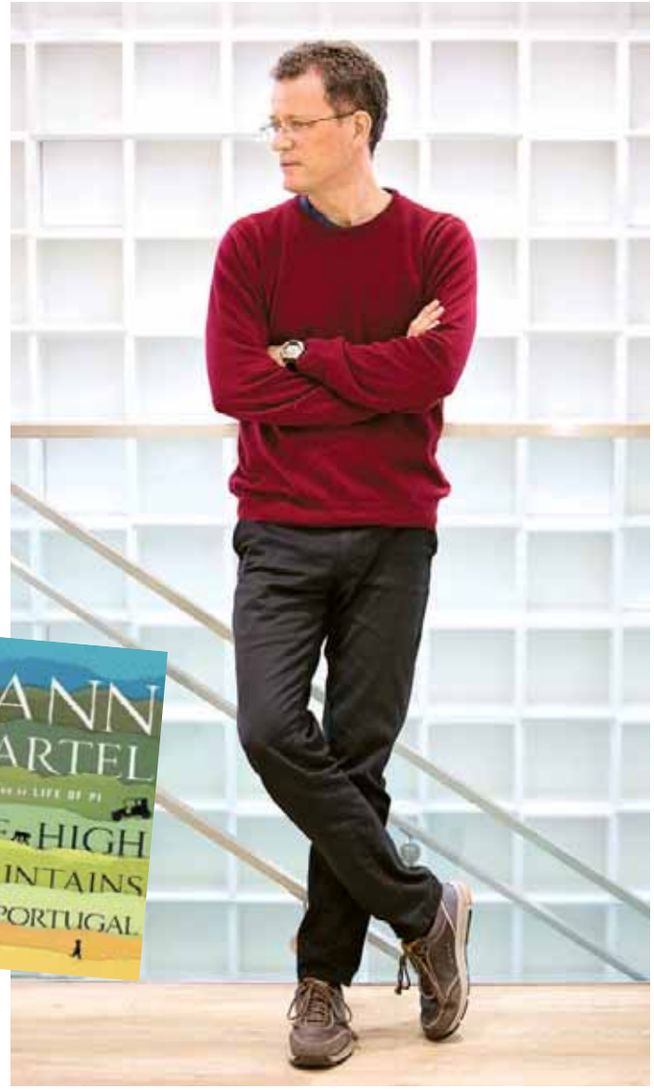
In other words, when we let go of our rationality, we open the door for magic.

BIBLIOTHERAPY

In 2007, Yann Martel began sending Stephen Harper books he thought the then-prime minister should read. What would he send to Justin Trudeau?

"I did that to Harper because I thought he needed betterment. I saw a man who had a dried up narrow vision — profoundly divisive, profoundly destructive. I don't see that in Trudeau."





Just this week, Yann Martel released his new book, The High Mountains of Portugal. He will tour across Canada in March. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO CANADA

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Love, murder, intrigue make good television

Ben Whishaw plays a young Londoner trying to solve the mystery of his lover's murder. HANDOUT

INTERVIEW

British writer uses plot twists and slow reveals in London Spy

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

British writer Tom Rob Smith makes his first foray into writing for television with the twisting, mysterious London Spy, about a young Londoner named Danny (Ben Whishaw), who meets Alex, a reserved math genius. The two become lovers, then Alex disappears and Danny discovers he was a spy — and Danny is being framed for his murder. Danny's ensuing hunt for the truth leads to British intelligence giant MI6.

Your first work, Child 44, was a novel adapted into a movie. How did making a TV series change your approach?

With the novel it was just a case of you believe in it, you go away and you write it and then you find a world for it. And this was kind of similar. I didn't have any TV experience,

I hadn't written an original drama before, but I knew that I wanted to tell the story and I knew it was TV. I knew it wasn't film, and I also knew it wasn't a book. It's like first-person narrative through the eyes of the main character, played by Ben Whishaw.

What were your ways into tackling the process of writing for TV?

With the first episode, there was a lot of debate about pace. One of the things I love about TV is you have more time. The conventional story — your partner is murdered and you take on the question of who murdered them — has been told countless times. With this, we have enough time to work out what their love story is as a particular love story without it being a shorthand. Let's spend a bit of time with these two people. Love stories aren't all the same — we fall in love for completely different reasons.

I wanted to understand that these two people were both lost for very different reasons. You have someone who's very hedonistic and then you have someone who's deeply closeted, locked into a world of people who are dark and dangerous. In London, those two worlds stare at each other.

On one side of the road in Vauxhall you have these clubs that finish at 8 a.m. And then you have someone in that world staring at the opposite side — MI6. And so you have these two people collide, and I wanted us as an audience to really connect with them.

What about getting into the MI6, mystery part of something like this?

There were two central mysteries at the heart of it, which is No. 1, what happened. Was he murdered or was he actually involved in these sexual practices and did he go wrong? That's the first question, and the second one was who was he? Often in these stories, the lover is kind of a fixed point, unchanging throughout the whole thing. But I wanted that character to change across the series, for in this investigation that Ben goes on, he would get closer to the person through all the different elements of who they are.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

The American Idol judges have found an engaging banter in their final season of the show. CONTRIBUTED

American Idol's final act is full of beauty

THE SHOW: American Idol, Season 15
THE MOMENT: The Final Auditions

Crackling with craziness, a young woman bounds into the audition room and announces to judges Jennifer Lopez, Harry Connick, Jr. and Keith Urban, "I'm 23 years old and I'm a singing nomad."

Lopez, who moves through life looking permanently airbrushed, says, "I could never do that."

"You couldn't sleep outside?" Connick asks her. "You could build a shelter out of your assistants."

"That would work," Lopez replies (she knows who she is).

The crackling girl, who can't sing, looks bewildered. The judges dismiss her. But nicely.

The awareness that this is American Idol's final season has reinvigorated everyone.

The contestants are fresher. The panellists, nestled in their niches — Urban feels the music, Lopez is the mama (sweet and stern), and Connick is both cut-up and musical sophisticate — have found an engaging banter.

AI has always been about hope, kids from nowhere dreaming of stepping through a magic door into a bigger, better life.

In the Simon Cowell years, there were two ways that hope could go: terrible singers were mocked for their delusion while credible candidates were moved along in a hard-nosed manner until their story had been exploited fully.

Thankfully, the show has mellowed as it's matured.

The current judges are as much about making music as they are about selling it. They're attuned to the place songs hold in people's lives.

When they talk about connecting to a song, and connecting through a song, they mean it. They're looking for that lump in the throat. And that makes great TV.

American Idol airs Wednesdays 8 p.m. on Yes TV and Fox.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Exploring partners' past loves

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Years ago, Leanne Shapton was hanging out at her boyfriend's when she noticed he still had photos of his ex-girlfriend in the apartment.

It's an uncomfortable scenario that would make anyone jealous or even suspicious, but the New York-based author-illustrator turned those dark emotions into Was She Pretty?, a graphic novel that explores the natural impulse to seek out the personal details of those who came before us in our relationships. Published 10 years ago, the book is now available in paperback for the first time with the venerable comics publisher, Drawn & Quarterly.

"I was fascinated by other's people's experiences and what they did when they confronted their own jealousy," Shapton recalls. Using her friends' and her own experiences — plus many she imagined or were inspired by vintage photos — Shapton drew a series of pen-and-ink portraits of former lovers, accompanied by captions such as "Jacob's parents adored his ex-girlfriend Cynthia" and "Shane's ex-girlfriend was a child prodigy."

"Jealousy is a bad feeling, and yet I didn't want to say, 'Here's how you get over it.' It's definitely not a self-help book. It's a wallowing book, if anything," Shapton says.

A decade ago when Was She Pretty? first came out, Twitter was just in its infancy and Instagram hadn't been invented yet. While Shapton's book doesn't deal with how social media has become a handy tool for those looking to cyber-stalk exes, she acknowledges it's affected how we perceive ourselves and others.

Leanne Shapton fleshes out partners' past relationships, both real and imagined. CONTRIBUTED

"I think that makes for your imagination about what you don't know about people to get even more inflamed and to grow even more," she says. "The book is much more about the assumption that people come and go in your lives."

Other than a new cover design and the ink colour, the contents of Was She Pretty? have not altered from the first edition. Shapton, on the other hand, has observed changes in her own attitude toward the green-eyed monster. Growing up in Toronto, Shapton was a competitive swimmer, an experience she chronicled in her 2012 illustrated book Swimming Studies. "Ten years out, my competitive streak has blunted, so it's fun to look back at this more competitive version of myself," she says. "I'm a much less jealous person because of all the experience I have now. But it's still such a fresh thing. It can flare up, like a rash."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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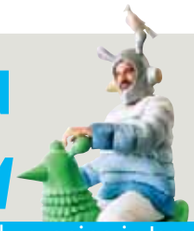

Funtastico, a Jaime Hayon retrospective, currently running in Israel

TOWER GREEN AT WEST IN FALSE CREEK

MEET THE CONDO

False Creek's bestseller

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Executive Group Development's Tower Green has been a hit with residents wanting to live in the False Creek waterfront community. Still under construction, the boutique high-rise condominiums are already 98 per cent sold out, with occupancy scheduled for March 2017.

Housing Amenities

Units are contemporary and inviting with plenty of natural lighting. Amenities include a fitness facility, a resident's lounge featuring Wi-Fi and a communal rooftop landscaped barbecue area. The lobby will have concierge services and residents can feel safe with restricted floor access via two computerized elevators.

Location and transit

Tower Green (phase two of three towers being built at West) is evolving to become the epicentre of False Creek Village and the surrounding neighbourhoods. Vancouver's hottest districts are easily accessible by foot, bike or transit. Canada Line is less than a 10-minute walk away.

In the neighbourhood

Future Tower Green residents can look forward to morning jogs along the seawall, artisan pastry and espresso at Terra Breads or a yoga class. Granville Island is a short distance away — a great one-stop shop for vegetables and seafood. There's also 43,000 square feet of shopping right at the ground level of the high-rise.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Tower Green at West in False Creek
Builder: Executive Group Development
Architect: Atmosphere Interiors — Caroline Boisvert
Location: 159 West 2nd Ave.
Building: Boutique style high-rise condominiums with mixed-use commercial on ground level
Sizes: 469 to 1,932 square feet
Pricing: From $301,900
Suites: Junior one bedroom, one bedroom and den, two bedrooms, three bedrooms
Status: Under construction
Occupancy: March to May 2017
Sales centre: 121 West 2nd Ave.
Phone: (604) 707-9378
Website: towergreenliving.com.ca

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3 BEST NEW DESIGNS AT THE INTERIOR DESIGN SHOW

For those interested in design but intimidated by the pretension that can sometimes accompany it, events like the recent Interior Design Show offer a fun way to see the work of design superstars alongside fresh blood. Here are three that stood out

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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COURTESY KROFT + CO

Kroft+Co

The "slow designed" and "undressed" furniture of Kroft + Co, based north of Toronto, stands out for its Scandinavian-like simplicity and surface material that from a distance looks like blackboard paint but on closer inspection is way more grown up. "It's linoleum," says Dustin Kroft, the company's director of product management.

"It's very widely used in Europe and is one of the greatest surface materials you can find. In fact, all the court rooms in the U.S. use linoleum on their counters because it's the greatest writing surface."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yusuf Mannan

Getting things off the floor seems very definitely the way of the future, as we move into increasingly tight spaces, but the inspiration for furniture designer Yusuf Mannan's multipurpose storage and display system, The Peg Project (made from maple and birch), comes from the past in the "minimalism of the Shakers."

"No screws, no hardware. I just want to use wooden details and the old traditional hand tools," he says. "It's lightweight and for somebody who likes to move things around easily."

COURTESY ABDE NOUAMANI

Abde Nouamani

Melbourne, Australia, has a brilliant design scene and Abde Nouamani represented it well at IDS16.

A recent furniture design graduate in that city, Nouamani was raised in Morocco's Casablanca and his Acorn mirrors reflect the ancient Egyptian tradition of polishing copper until it provides a reflective surface. "The problem with copper is that it tarnishes very quickly after a couple of days and you have to polish it again, but brass on the other hand doesn't."

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metro SPORTS

Roger Federer underwent successful arthroscopic knee surgery and will have to skip at least two tournaments

Torts made sure time in Vancouver wasn't dull

NHL

Ex-Canucks coach returns with visiting Blue Jackets

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Under normal circumstances, a game between the Vancouver Canucks and Columbus Blue Jackets in early February wouldn't create much hype.

But normal circumstances and John Tortorella don't seem to go together.

When these two teams meet Thursday, Tortorella will be behind the Blue Jackets bench — having returned from broken ribs suffered in a collision with one of his players during practice — in his first game back at Rogers Arena since he was turfed as head coach of the Canucks.

FOR THE RECORD

John Tortorella's NHL record as a head coach by team:

Tampa Bay
239-222-36-38
New York Rangers
171-118-1-29
Vancouver
36-35-11
Columbus
19-21-5

From June 2013 to April 2014, what a tenure that turned out to be. Stick with us here for a second, as we digress.

His disdain for the shootout; the second-half collapse; naming Eddie Lack the starter for the Heritage Classic instead of Roberto Luongo, which accelerated the Luongo trade to Florida; playing the Sedin twins into the ground; and that infamous incident between the Canucks and Calgary Flames on Jan. 18, 2014, that started with a fourth-line-versus-fourth-line line brawl, ramped up when an irate Tortorella tried to charge the visitors' dressing room to get at Flames coach Bob Hartley and resulted in a truly wild scene on television and eventually a six-game suspension for Tortorella.

In the season finale, Tortorella once again ripped Hartley, referring to the Flames bench boss's decision to start his fourth line once again as "bush league."

Did we miss anything?

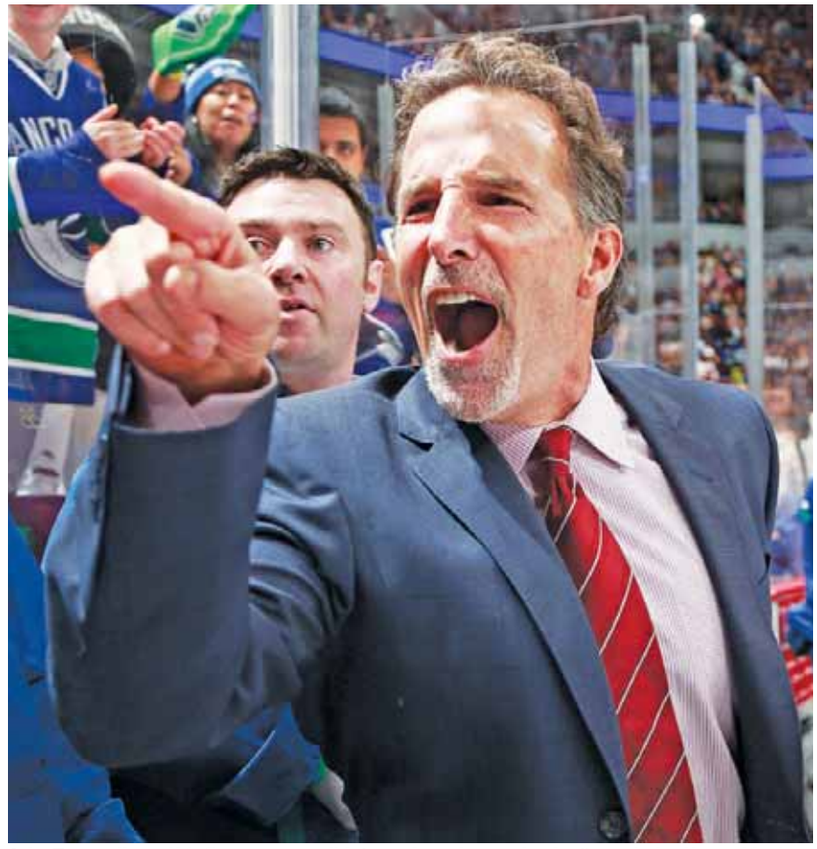
Mike Gillis lost his job as GM.

In his post-mortem address, Tortorella came right out and said the Canucks' core was stale.

He, too, was fired a few weeks later, as Trevor Linden looked to put his stamp on the organization.

It was only one season. But it was never dull, even if the on-ice product was difficult for fans to stomach.

Columbus is dead last in the NHL's overall standings. The Canucks are only eight points better and out of a playoff spot.



John Tortorella and his fiery persona didn't produce the results the Canucks had hoped for in his one season in Vancouver. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Since Tortorella's ousting, the Canucks — under Linden and GM Jim Benning — have made strides to get younger and quicker.

"I spoke from my heart — what I thought should happen," said Tortorella of the Canucks' current youth movement.

"It wasn't trying to be right or try to protect myself to keep my job."

CFL

Lions see upside in Boldewijn

In the words of B.C. Lions offensive co-ordinator Khari Jones, receiver Geraldo Boldewijn is an intriguing prospect. And the Lions would like to get a further glimpse into his potential.

While the big news from Tuesday was Lions GM and coach Wally Buono saying he didn't believe the club would offer Andrew Harris, the team's star running back and pending free agent, a new contract, the team also earlier announced it had re-signed Boldewijn for the 2016 season.

> **"You hope that height, weight and size can pay off for your team.**
> Khari Jones

In his only game last season — his Lions debut came after he was added to the practice roster in the fall — the six-foot-four and soon to be 25-year-old, Boldewijn had three catches for 64 yards.

"You hope that height, weight and size can pay off for your team," Jones said Tuesday.

One game is a small sample size. But it's useful in helping the Lions staff start to build a profile of what Boldewijn can do in a game situation.

However, it's still too early to know exactly where he fits into the offence going into next season.

"We're still getting all the pieces in place with free agency, with our guys. You still don't know where all the pieces fit yet," said Jones. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Blas Perez, left, gets his head on a ball while playing for Panama at Copa America 2016 in January.
RODRIGO ARANGUA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MLS

Caps working to finalize deal for Perez

Blas Perez is in Tucson, Ariz., and training with the Vancouver Whitecaps, the local Major League Soccer club confirmed Wednesday.

The 34-year-old forward has joined the Whitecaps while they try to finalize a deal with rival FC Dallas that would officially send Perez to Vancouver in exchange for veteran midfielder Mauro Rosales, the club stated.

"Blas is a proven goal-scorer," head coach Carl Robinson told the club's website.

"Everywhere he plays, he scores goals, competes, and has a natural hunger to win. We are working on a deal with Dallas, as well as Blas, but felt it was important to have him here in Tucson, training with the guys, as soon as possible."

Originally from Panama City, Panama, Perez spent four seasons with Dallas, scoring 36 goals in 97 regular season games. When it comes to scoring, he's done some damage against the Whitecaps, scoring four times in MLS competition while figuring to be a pain to play against.

Manufacturing more goals has been a focal point for Robinson and the Whitecaps this off-season. His goal totals (five in 23 games) may have seen a decline last year, but Perez could provide a strong secondary option to help with Vancouver's attack.

The Whitecaps opened the pre-season with a match versus Seattle Sounders FC on Wednesday.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

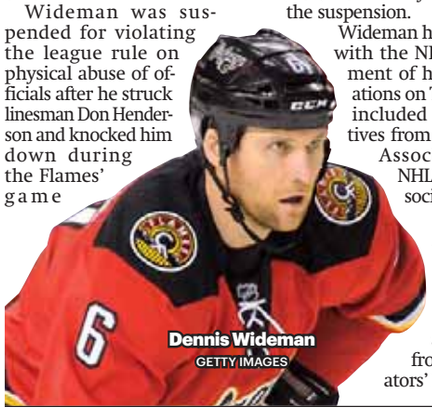
Wideman to appeal 20-game ban

NHL

Flames veteran unhappy with suspension for sticking official

The NHL suspended Calgary Flames defenceman Dennis Wideman 20 games on Wednesday for cross-checking a linesman during a game last week, the second-longest suspension in NHL history for abusing an official.

Wideman was suspended for violating the league rule on physical abuse of officials after he struck linesman Don Henderson and knocked him down during the Flames' game against Nashville on Jan. 27.


Dennis Wideman
GETTY IMAGES

The NHL Players' Association said in a statement that Wideman is appealing the suspension. "We strongly disagree with the League's decision to suspend Dennis Wideman," the players' union said. "Dennis has played in 11 NHL seasons and almost 800 games without incident. The facts, including the medical evidence presented at the hearing, clearly demonstrate that Dennis had no intention to make contact with the linesman."

The 32-year-old will forfeit $564,516 in salary as a result of the suspension.

Wideman had a hearing with the NHL's department of hockey operations on Tuesday that included representatives from the Players' Association and NHL Officials Association.

After the game last week, Wideman said he was in pain after a hit from the Predators' Miikka Salomaki and couldn't avoid hitting Henderson. He was not penalized and skated over to the officials and apologized moments later.

"Throughout my career — and I've been around for a few years — I think I've treated every official with the utmost respect," Wideman said, "and I would never intentionally try to hit a linesman or a ref or anything like that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOTABLE BANS

- **Lifetime:** Billy Coutu for assaulting two referees and starting a bench-clearing brawl (April 1927).
- **41 games:** Raffi Torres for an illegal hit to the head of Jakob Silfverberg (October 2015).
- **30 games:** Chris Simon for stomping on the ankle of Jarkko Ruutu (December 2007).
- **25 games:** Raffi Torres for an illegal hit to the head of Marian Hossa (April 2012). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nashville Predators' players look over the bench at **linesman Don Henderson** after he was hit by **Calgary Flames' Dennis Wideman** in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Sabres deepen Habs' troubles

Jamie McGinn and Johan Larsson scored in the third period as the Buffalo Sabres posted a 4-2 comeback victory over the slumping Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday night.

Marcus Foligno and Brian Gionta, into an empty net, also scored for Buffalo (21-26-4), which played its first game since the all-star break. The Sabres, last in the Atlantic Division, are 6-4-0 in their last 10 games.

Dale Weise and Alex Galchenyuk scored for Montreal (24-2-44), which has lost four in a row and us 1-8-1 in its last 10. The Canadiens opened the season on a 19-4-3 tear but are 5-20-1 since then. Montreal outshot the Sabres 35-31.

WEDNESDAY In Montreal

SABRES	CANADIENS
4	2

The Canadiens were coming off a 4-2 loss Tuesday night in Philadelphia, so fatigue may have been a factor in surrendering a rare third-period lead.

McGinn tied it 2-2 on a power play 7:34 into the third period when he was at the edge of the crease to tip in a diagonal feed from Rasmus Ristolainen.

Larsson, with only his second goal of the season, got between two defenceman to tip a Jake McCabe feed past Mike Condon at 11:46. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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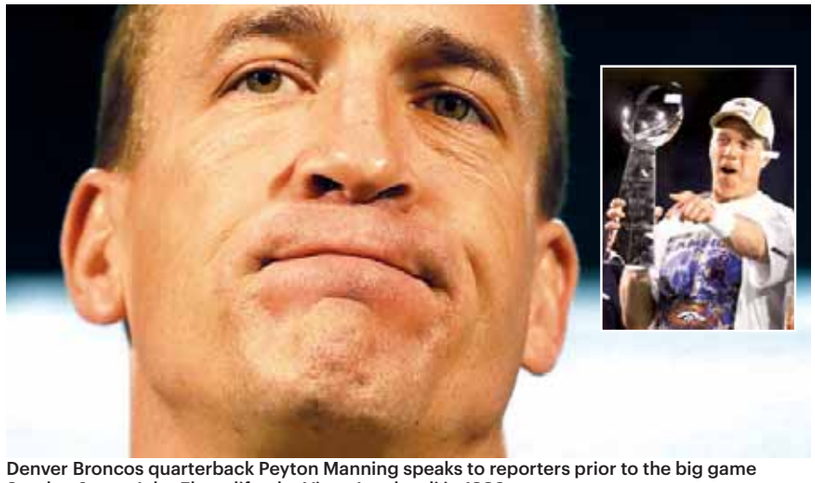
Manning may take a sunset walk like Elway

SUPER BOWL

Winning big one would give Peyton same perfect sendoff



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning speaks to reporters prior to the big game Sunday. **Inset:** John Elway lifts the Vince Lombardi in 1998. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The last time the world saw John Elway in a Broncos uniform, he was facing the stands, both hands aloft, holding his helmet in his left hand, and his right hand clenched into a tight, celebratory fist.

He flashed that toothy smile, knowing that a few minutes later, he would be cradling his second Super Bowl trophy. He went out on top. No matter what happened after that — and Elway has gone on to accomplish plenty — his last meaningful moments on a football field had resulted in a victory in the biggest game of all.

"It's a very nice thing to have," Elway said this week, "knowing you can always look back and have a real positive thought."

Now, Elway runs the team he used to play for. In 2012, he signed Peyton Manning, who, at 39, is even older than Elway was when he played his last game in 1999. And now, it's Manning who could be taking that same walk into the sunset. He has a chance to win his second Super Bowl, peel off his white Broncos jersey and never come back.

It's hard to think those conversations won't pick up steam over the next few weeks.

Manning has already told Patriots coach Bill Belichick, in a not-so-private exchange at midfield two weeks ago, that this might be his last rodeo. He has refused to expand on that.

"We haven't talked about anything past Sunday," said Manning's brother, Eli. "We kept it on this week, the last few weeks, but nothing past the game."

When the game is over, Peyton will have an all-star lineup from which to glean advice. It includes brother Eli, of course; their father, Archie, who spent 14 years in the NFL; their brother, Cooper. And Elway. Chances are, Manning will be seeking what

> **It's a very nice thing to have.**
> John Elway on winning the Super Bowl in his final game

Elway sought when he went to his father, Jack, a longtime scout and personnel man, after the second Super Bowl title.

"I was fortunate to be able to talk to my dad about what he thought," Elway said. "Because I didn't want it to be different than what I was seeing and what I was feeling."

The signs of Elway's slowdown toward the end were visible — he missed four starts in 1998 with hamstring, rib and other injuries.

But the ravages of age on him weren't as glaring as what Manning has displayed at times this season.

If Manning leads Denver to a victory against Carolina on Sunday, Manning's ability to set aside the glow of winning the title, and to listen to candid advice, will set the framework for his decision. His inner-circle's ability to give it to him straight will be every bit as important for the quarterback, whose contract extends through next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Reinhart's quietly enjoying a big year

Sam Reinhart GETTY IMAGES

Playing in the shadow of the gifted Jack Eichel may be a good thing for Buffalo Sabres winger Sam Reinhart.

Even though both were second-overall draft picks — North Vancouver native Reinhart in 2014 behind Florida's Aaron Ekblad, and Eichel in 2015 behind Edmonton phenom Connor McDavid — it is Eichel who is drawing most of the attention in the first full NHL season for both players.

"I think Sam's had the benefit of going under the radar a bit," coach Dan Bylsma said Wednesday as the Sabres prepared to face the Montreal Canadiens. "There hasn't been a big story about Sam.

"We've seen him really improve his game and come out to score what could be 20 or 23 goals, which would be a pretty darn good season for anybody. It doesn't have the dramatic story or the spotlight, but he's turned into a big part of our team and the scoring on our team."

Reinhart has 12 goals and eight assists in 47 games, playing mainly on a line with team scoring leader Ryan O'Reilly.

The Sabres are still last in the Atlantic Division, but the future looks brighter with a core of young talent.

"We're taking strides," said veteran defenceman Josh Gorges. "It's something to keep building on and be excited about." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Paralyzed hockey player awarded $8 million

A Montreal-area hockey player who was 16 when he became quadriplegic after a bodycheck from behind propelled him into the boards has been awarded $8 million.

One of Andrew Zaccardo's lawyers says the amount handed down by a judge might be a record in such a case in any sport.

Zaccardo has been unable to walk since being hit by Ludovic Gauvreau-Beaupre in 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spurs stuff Pelicans to win 36th straight at home

LaMarcus Aldridge had 36 points, setting his season high for the second consecutive game, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the New Orleans Pelicans 110-97 on Wednesday night to remain unbeaten at home.

San Antonio (41-8) won its 27th straight home game this season and 36th overall dating to last season.

Anthony Davis had 28 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans. Jrue Holiday scored 20. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Pasta with Peas and Green Onion

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Run, don't walk to the grocery store. This dish uses only 5 ingredients (we're not counting the oil, OK?) but yields big flavour and even more leftovers. We call that a dinner trifecta.

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients
- 500g rigatoni pasta
- 2 cups fresh or frozen peas, cooked and drained
- 1 1/2 cups crumbled feta cheese
- 1 bunch green onions (about 4), sliced
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Juice of half a large lemon
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh mint, plus more for garnish

Directions

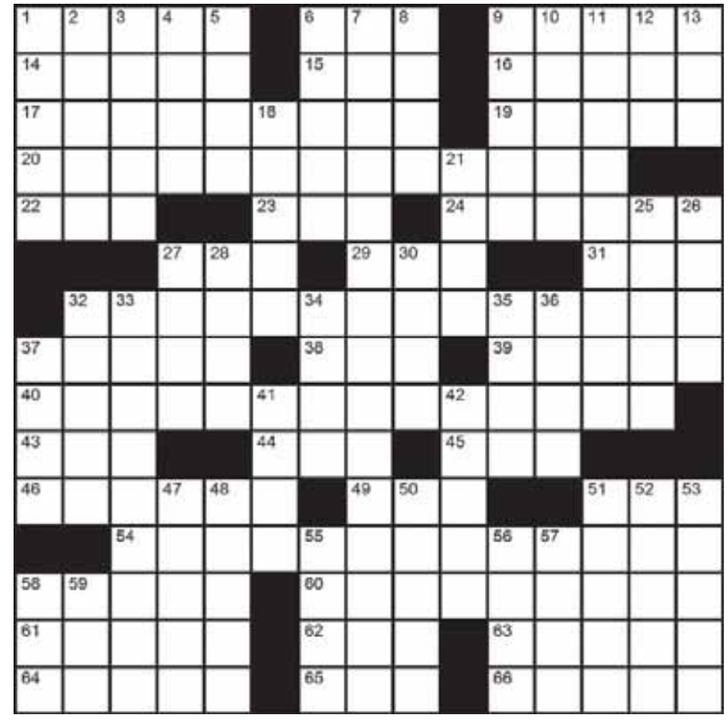
1. Bring a large pot of salted water to boil over medium heat. Once boiling, add the pasta and cook 7 to 11 minutes, or until al dente. Drain the pasta and pour into a large bowl.

2. Mix pasta with peas, onions and feta. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil, lemon juice and mint. Drizzle dressing over pasta and toss throughout. Sprinkle pasta with another teaspoon of fresh, chopped mint and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Large amounts
6. __-la-la
9. Mr. Baron Cohen
14. Song line
15. CD-__
16. Like some verbs, for short
17. As per #32-Across... Bonhomme's grand home in his fantastically frigid kingdom: 2 wds.
19. Canadian guitarist Ms. Boyd
20. Fast food utensils: 2 wds.
22. French seasoning
23. Company name abbr.
24. Medieval fief holder
27. Non-verbal communication syst.
29. Be in debt
31. "_! _ cut myself!" (Veggie chopper's cry)
32. Annual event since 1955 currently underway in Quebec City: 2 wds.
37. Breadcrumbs of Japan
38. 'O' of OLP
39. Had that burger: 2 wds.
40. Hit for Joe Cocker that goes "Baby let me be / 'Cause you don't care...": 3 wds.
43. "Not impressed."
44. "Yuck!"
45. Hardy animal
46. A __ (Theoretical thinking)
49. Big Apple newspaper [acronym]
51. Help
54. According to the bio of Bonhomme (the mascot of #32-Across), it's his dream to eliminate this in the world: 2 wds.
58. Celebrity chef Ms. De Laurentiis
60. Emotionally cleansing
61. "When does __ lighter out again?" (Hoping-for-Spring query)
62. Dernier __ (Latest fashion)
63. Metamorphosis-izer
64. Shrek's beloved
65. Mr. Cobb, and others
66. Hamilton = __ City

DOWN
1. Undergarments worn with dresses
2. Recurring process
3. Expanse-related
4. Plunges
5. "Vamoose!"
6. Stretch of land
7. "The Last Waltz" (1978) directed by Martin Scorsese and starring The Band: 2 wds.
8. "Indeed!"
9. Region's forest trees
10. Ram's sign
11. __ artists (Singers such as Taylor Swift)
12. Farm bird
13. Palindromic honorific
18. City in northern France
21. Folkie band, Bon __
25. Anticipate
26. Lively tune
27. Ancient Egyptian cross
28. Ancient colonnade
30. Cautious
32. Decliner
33. Visiting the Windy City: 2 wds.
34. Rice-A-__
35. Scot's negatives
36. "Take __ __ a sign."
37. Shoe style
41. "Correct me __ __ wrong, but..."
42. Submarine entrance
47. __ days
48. Lasso
50. Abominable snowmen
51. Cavern
52. "Okay, __ up already, what's the answer?"
53. Sticker
55. Bank __.
56. Mr. Holbrook's
57. Smell __ (Be suspicious)
58. Picture file extension
59. "Lord, is __?" (Last Supper question)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
They say opposites attract and someone who's as different from you as possible will get your pulse racing. You'll recover your senses quickly, but it could be the love of your life.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Stick to tried and trusted ways, even if some may say it's old-fashioned. Not everything old is wrong and at least you get things done, which is more than can be said for some!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Don't worry if you find yourself in a minority of one. Being the kind of person who stands out from the crowd, it is inevitable that you will be criticized by those who would prefer everyone to think and act alike.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Someone needs your support and a shoulder to cry on. Do what you can to assist them. It may be emotionally draining but you have been through this kind of scene many times before.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You are in a restless mood, unable to get comfortable in any one place. Why should that be a problem? Why should you stay still? Be adventurous. Boredom is to be avoided.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Why can't some people see sense? You will have to deal with someone whose grasp of logic is non-existent. Make your point, then get away from them as quickly as you can. You're under no obligation to stay.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It may be hard to think straight today but it's essential if you don't want to get caught up in a big scene. You can't stop others from ranting and raving but you don't have to join in.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be tempted to hit back at someone who's giving you a hard time but is it a good idea? They may just be waiting for an excuse to start an open fight.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Someone you thought was a friend will show their true colours and try to convert you to their way of thinking. Let them know that in future they must only give their opinions when asked — in other words, never!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Someone in a position of authority will get a bit emotional today. Do what you can to calm them down. Not only will they appreciate your advice but they will mark you down as someone who can be trusted.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will have fun today but you may feel guilty because not everyone is as happy or fortunate as you. Help others get over whatever it is that is bothering them but don't let their mood bring you down.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Negative feelings may be natural but don't let them take over your life. Confront whatever it is that pains you today.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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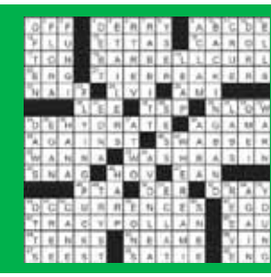

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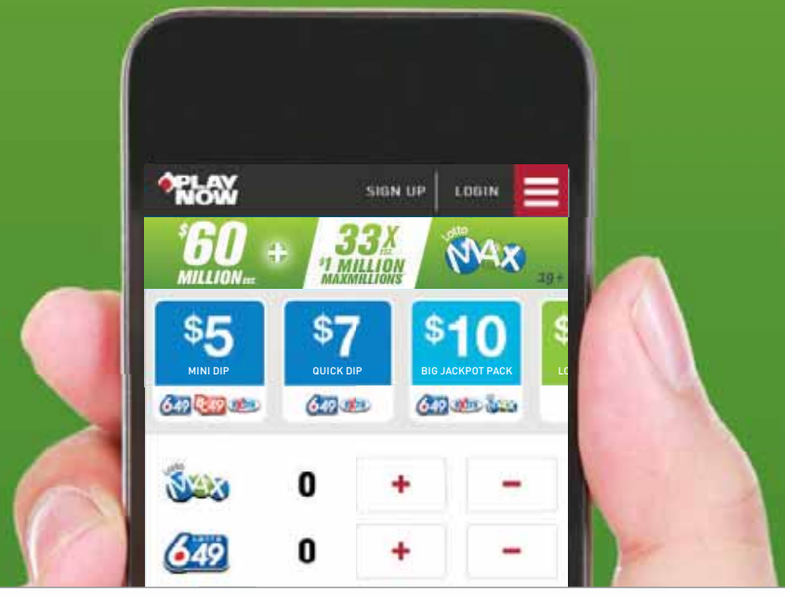

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